

Application Number: 10/604,639

Art Unit: 2636

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1 - 4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) ~~The~~ A lockset tampering detection device of which comprises:
sensing circuitry, operatively coupled to said lockset, responsive to signals indicative of tampering directed at defeating said lockset's locking means and means to determine if the lockset is in its open or locked state and means to signal a tampering alarm when said sensing circuitry detects said tampering directed at defeating said lockset after said lockset is transitioned from its unlocked state to its locked state.
wherein the operative connection between said lockset tampering sensing circuitry and said lockset is achieved through circuitry's coupling to the lockset through its bolt by electrical, acoustic, magnetic, optical or other like means serving to signal tampering with the lock, through the bolt, to said sensing circuitry.
~~Claim 3~~ wherein said sensing circuitry monitors qualified changes in capacitance between said lockset and a reference conductor as indicative of tampering.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (previously presented) The lockset tampering detection device of Claim 5 wherein slow changes in capacitance, not indicative of tampering, are ignored.

8 (Cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A method of arming, or disarming a lockset tampering detection device having, sensing circuitry operatively coupled to said lockset, responsive to signals indicative of tampering directed at defeating said lockset's locking means, means to signal if the lockset is in its open or locked state and means to signal a tampering alarm when said sensing circuitry detects tampering after said lockset is transitioned from its unlocked state to its locked state, comprising the steps of:
arming the lockset tampering detection device after the lockset is transitioned from its unlocked to its locked state and
disarming the lockset tampering detection device after the lockset is transitioned from its locked state to its unlocked state~~The method of Claim 2 wherein said arming steps further comprise the sub-steps of:~~
providing alarm inhibition for a sufficient time to allow normal, authorized means for transitioning the lockset from its locked to its unlocked state and

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providing a sustained tampering alarm when said inhibition time expires without lockset transition to its unlocked state with said sustained tampering alarm then made resetable only by first unlocking and relocking said lockset.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9 further comprising the steps of: automatically resetting and rearming a lockset tampering alarm after a first, relatively long time limit and automatically resetting and rearming a lockset tampering alarm after a relatively short time limit when first preceded by said unlocking and relocking sequence and ensuring that said sustained tampering alarm is not precluded or terminated by forcibly overcoming the lockset's conventional mechanical locking function.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A lockset tampering detection device which comprises: sensing circuitry, operatively coupled to said lockset, responsive to signals indicative of tampering directed at defeating said lockset's locking means and means to determine if the lockset is in its open or locked state and means to signal a tampering alarm when said sensing circuitry detects said tampering directed at defeating said lockset after said lockset is transitioned from its unlocked state to its locked state~~The lockset tampering detection device of Claim 11 further comprising means to send a signal to a conventional multizone security system, said signal serving to communicate the status of said lockset such that the state of lockset tampering detection device may be determined to be:~~
disarmed or armed or in alarm and further comprising:
a conventional multi-zone security system through which lockset tampering alarms may be announced and
a protected area, comprised of one or more zones, each secured by one or more lockset tampering detection devices and
conventional means for the concurrent or rapid sequential determination of the state of each of the lockset tampering detection devices used to secure said protected area.

13. (previously presented) The lockset tampering detection device of Claim 12 further comprising:
means to arm said conventional multi-zone security system when all of said lockset tampering detection devices in said protected area are determined to be in their armed state and
means to selectively arm specific zones of said multi-zone security system when all the lockset tampering detection devices within said zones are determined to be in their armed state.

14. (previously presented) The lockset tampering detection device of Claim 12 further comprising:

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means to disarm said conventional multi-zone security system when any of said lockset tampering detection devices in said protected area are determined to be in their disarmed state and

means to selectively disarm specific zones of said multi-zone security system when any lockset tampering detection devices within said zones are determined to be in their disarmed state.

15. (previously presented) The lockset tampering detection device of Claim 12 further comprising:

means to alarm said conventional multi-zone security system when any of said lockset tampering detection devices in said protected area are determined to be in their alarmed state and

means to selectively alarm specific zones of said multi-zone security system when any lockset tampering detection devices within said zones are determined to be in their alarmed state.

16. (previously presented) The lockset tampering detection device of Claim 12 further comprising:

means to disable an inadvertent alarm of said multi-zone security system when the lockset tampering detection device that originated the alarm is reset through the sequential unlocking and relocking of the lockset monitored by said lockset tampering detection device.

17. (previously presented) The lockset tampering detection device of Claim 12 further comprising:

means to selectively arm only the perimeter and not the area components of said conventional multizone security system when all of said lockset tampering detection devices in said protected area are determined to be in their armed state and when an authorized person is detected within the area secured by the lockset tampering detection devices and

means to selectively arm only the perimeter and not the area components of one or more specific zones of said conventional multizone security system when all of said lockset tampering detection devices in said specific zones are determined to be in their armed state and an authorized person is detected within the zone secured by the lockset tampering detection devices.

18. (previously presented) The lockset tampering detection device of Claim 17 further comprising means to:

automatically enable area components of said conventional multi-zone security system, upon detection of the departure of authorized occupants as signaled by the disarming and rearming of said lockset tampering detection device without alarm, followed by a suitable interval of the area components of said conventional multi-zone security system not detecting the presence of individuals in said protected area.